Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

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SCI-06 OMB-01 H-03 L-03 PRS-01 PA-04 DODE-00 DRC-01

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R 251125Z APR 74 FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8510 INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SNAR, RO

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: CONGRESSIONAL QUERY

REF: STATE 079063

- 1. NARCOTICS CONTROL REMAINS MATTER OF LIMITED CONCERN TO ROMANIANS. OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT DRUG ABUSE IS THAT IT DOESN'T EXIST HERE. TO CHALLENGE THIS THESIS CAN AROUSE TESTINESS ON THE PART OF OFFICIALS. THE MOST THAT THEY WILL GRANT IS THAT MATTER OF COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL WILL BECOME MORE OF THE MOMENT AS CONTACTS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND WEST PROLIFERATE. PROBLEM IS SEEN AS ONE WELL IN THE FUTURE, NOOT SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH NOW. IN MEANTIME, REGIME REAPS SOME PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE IN SUGGESTING THAT DRUG ABUSE IS A MANIFESTATION OF CAPITALIST SYSTEM, THAT THE SOCIAL ORDER IN THEIR OWN SYSTEM MAKES SUCH EXCESSES UNTHINKABLE.
- 2. GIVEN FOREGOING, IT FOLLOWS THAT FIGURES ON ANNUAL SPENDING ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ARE NOT OBTAINABLE, IF IN FACT THEY EXIST. AS A VERY ROUGH ESTIMATE, EMBASSY PLACES AT LESS THAN \$100,000 ANNSLL SPENDING BY GOR ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. VIRTUALLY ENTIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMOUNT WOULD BE COMMITTED TO DOMESTIC CATEGORY A, SUPPLY (ENFORCE-

MENT). UNDER

THE DEMAND HEADING, NO PROGRAM IS KNOWN TO EXIST FOR PREVENTION, WHILE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION DOES NOT, SO FAR AS IS KNOWN, INVOLVE SPECIALIZED FACILITIES OR PERSONNEL. ENFORCEMENT ASPECT, GIVEN THE VERY REDICED CONSUMPTION IN THE COUNTRY, IS DIRECTED ESSENTIALLY AGAINST IMPORTATION OF NARCOTICS BY FOREIGN AND NATIVE TRAVELLERS. IT IS PERHAPS INSTRUCTIVE, IN THAT REGARD, THAT IN RESPONSE TO AN OFFER OF TRAINING MADE BY U.S. CUSTOMS, ROMANIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE DECLARED ITS FIELDS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO BE VEHICLE, AIR AND MARITIME SEARCHES. THAT INTEREST ASSUREDLY REFLECTS SOME CONCERN WITH NARCOTICS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ASSIGN A PERCENTAGE OR MONEY FIGURE TO THE NARCOTICS SHARE. BARNES

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